

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A trapping area creating method comprising:  
a division step of dividing an image represented  
5 in form of a combination of polygons to which colors are  
applied, into a plurality of image areas by a straight line  
passing through vertexes of the polygons;

10 a decision step of deciding a propriety of  
trapping for each pair of image areas adjacent to one  
another in at least one direction of predetermined two  
directions, with respect to the plurality of image areas  
wherein the image is divided; and

15 a trapping area creating step of creating a band-  
shaped trapping area extending along a boundary of two  
image areas constituting a pair of image areas decided as  
being suitable for a trapping in said decision step.

20 2. A trapping area creating method according to  
claim1, wherein said division step divides the image using,  
as said straight line, straight lines extending in same  
directions as said predetermined two directions passing  
through the vertexes of the polygon, and sides of the  
polygon.

25 3. A trapping area creating method according to  
claim1, wherein said decision step adopts, as said  
predetermined two directions, an upper and lower direction

and a right and left direction of the image.

4. A trapping area creating method according to claim1, wherein said decision step decides the propriety of trapping in accordance with a difference between colors of two image areas constituting said pair of image areas.

5. A trapping area creating method according to claim1, wherein said trapping area creating step creates, as said trapping area, an area interposed between a line constituting said boundary and a line obtained when said line (first occurring) is subjected to a parallel translation.

6. A trapping area creating apparatus creating a trapping area in accordance with a trapping area creating method comprising:

a division step of dividing an image represented in form of a combination of polygons to which colors are applied, into a plurality of image areas by a straight line passing through vertexes of the polygons;

a decision step of deciding a propriety of trapping for each pair of image areas adjacent to one another in at least one direction of predetermined two directions, with respect to the plurality of image areas wherein the image is divided; and

a trapping area creating step of creating a band-

shaped trapping area extending along a boundary of two image areas constituting a pair of image areas decided as being suitable for a trapping in said decision step.

5           7. A trapping area creating program storage medium storing a trapping area creating program, which causes a computer to execute a trapping area creating method comprising:

10           a division step of dividing an image represented in form of a combination of polygons to which colors are applied, into a plurality of image areas by a straight line passing through vertexes of the polygons;

15           a decision step of deciding a propriety of trapping for each pair of image areas adjacent to one another in at least one direction of predetermined two directions, with respect to the plurality of image areas wherein the image is divided; and

20           a trapping area creating step of creating a band-shaped trapping area extending along a boundary of two image areas constituting a pair of image areas decided as being suitable for a trapping in said decision step,

          when said trapping area creating program is incorporated into said computer.